David Hayden lacks positive male role models. Discuss

1-Try re wording the question to get new ideas.

David Hayden does not have enough men in his life that he can learn from and look up to. Discuss

This is just to help you think about the topic, you must still use the original topic.

2 Un pack the key terms and start to link to the text

Lacks – not enough – so he has some?

Positive –

Role Models – Someone to look up to? Someone to teach you morals – what’s right and wrong? Someone to teach you about how to treat women? How

A positive role model – a model of masculinity that is strong, just, treats others fairly

Physical attributes – In Montana – using a gun, fishing etc. – There are a few maybe? Even Frank?

Moral/spiritual attributes – Wes – sort of??? He doesn’t show off as Sheriff yet he does idolise Julian – see page 53

White and Indian male role models. Ronnie Tall Bear – p 26 is a positive role model, but because of the culture of Bentrock and the ecera, David cannot learn from him.

His mother however is a very positive role model and in some ways takes on some male aspects to become

He does

3 Put together a short answer that will also interpret the key words and give a plan to your essay. This is your introduction.

Write out the proper essay title and then write your introduction. Remember CIP – Contention, interpretation, plan. Contention = short answer/your opinion – no evidence. Interpretation – you interpret the key words in the essay, plan – try to order your ideas in the order you will address them in the essay. Try also to link and build your argument. Read the intro below – use the key to help you understand how it follows the CIP rule.

The coming of age novel Montana 1948 clearly demonstrates that a boy, particularly one on the cusp of adolescence, needs role models to securely enter adulthood. (1) In the book the adult David Hayden reflects upon how as a boy the men in his family failed to be as adult as he needed, ~~either by demonstrating courage~~  either because they lacked the necessary ~~courage~~ moral fibre or were corrupt(2). (3) The one male that David does admire without question is Ronnie Tall Bear a young Indian but the society and attitudes of the time preclude David from being able to truly benefit from Ronnie’s wisdom. (4) In the end it could be argued that David’s best role model is his mother, who ironically seems to appropriate certain supposedly male characteristics as she tries ~~to make up for~~ to compensate for the failings in the men around her. (5)

Contention = Whole thing (cusp = edge/ reflects upon = thinks/ appropriate = to take on or acquire/preclude = prevents). In an appropriately formal way I’ve said, ‘Yes boys need positive male role models and yes David lacks them, although Ronnie Tall Bear could have been one and his mum tries to fill the gaps.

Interpretation = highlighted in yellow are words and phrases that interpret the key words in the question.

Linking words and phrases – words that help build and link. Highilghted in green. Imagine the intro without them. It still reads OK, but the reader cannot follow the argument as well. Sometimes repeating a word helps link and build the argument e.g. novel and book or role models or men and male. Sometimes signpost words and phrases are used to help link and build. For example ‘In the end’, ‘but’, ‘as, either, or etc.

The crossed out phrases have been left for you to consider. Did I change them because the original was too vague, or the style was not formal enough or it just didn’t make sense?

4 Main Body Paragraphs

**Use your introduction to create topic sentences. You topic sentence states one idea about the topic. After this prove your idea with examples and explanations where necessary. Tie it all up at the end so the reader is clear about what you’ve argued. Examples are below with commentary on what I’m doing in italics and in brackets. Yes it’s like TEEL, but the last one is more of a sum up than a link. It’s more of a TEES!**

Watson clearly shows how a boy of twelve needs guidance as he grows up. {*Topic sentence that is an idea and is a rewording of sentence numbered 1 in intro*} David Hayden is shown to be a boy who is, ‘never sure how to behave’ and prefers to escape into the wilderness. He is also confused about the awakening of his sexuality, feeling awkward when he sees Marie stepping out of the shower and jealous when he hears his uncle making love to his pretty Aunt Gloria. {*Examples of his need for guidance. Note how I have embedded actual words from the novel and also simply referred to the text in detail*.} David needs a mature male to talk to and help him overcome his shyness and be comfortable with his burgeoning sexual needs. *{Explanation – I am openly stating what he needs in a way that refers back to those examples and explains why I used those examples. Burgeoning is a fancy word for growing*}. David’s wild shooting with the gun given to him by his grandfather leading to the haphazard death of a magpie, seems to sum up the dangers he faces when he tries to process truths he is too young to handle on his own. {*I use a final example to sum up my idea that I stated in my topic sentence – I have summed up my argument for the reader}.*

The novel demonstrates that these dangers are often more pronounced when fathers lack the wisdom young adolescents require. {*This topic sentence is a loose rewording of the phrase about moral fibre in the introduction and* ***also links from the last sentence of the previous paragraph.*}** This truth is demonstrated to the reader by the fact that despite his many good points, Wes Hayden’s weaknesses cause him to fail to be as wise and just as David needs. {*This paragraph needs finishing – you will need to give examples of Wes’ kindnesses and his humility, but also his anxiety about pleasing his father and ensuring the Hayden family name is not blemished and his racism? You will need to explain how these examples make him a disappointment in David’s eyes and an incomplete role model*.}

When a father fails to provide a proper role model the young look to other males in the family and the novel shows how damaging it is when male family members fail in this respect.{That was a topic sentence and now there needs to be discussion of Frank and Julian’s corruption. You’re on your own now}

Positive role model in Ronnie Tall Bear – why that won’t work – because of the society{Now you’re really on your own- you’ve got to do the topic sentence and everything}

Ironically his mother demonstrates many of the qualities he needs. Mum – forced into being a male role model because this is lacking for him? standing up to Wes and wielding a gun against Julian’s heavi {These are just some random thoughts – you will have to structure the paragraph with the topic sentence etc}

5 Conclusion

The conclusion needs to sum up the key ideas you argued through your essay. You are essentially saying to your reader, ‘Look this is what you now you should think about this topic from what I’ve argued and proved to you.’ Therefore you will be mentioning the ideas you stated in your introduction, but extending them, probably explaining them.

Rubbish Conclusion

Therefore we can see from what I’ve said that Montana 1948 shows that a boy who’s on the cusp of adolenscence needs positive male role models. David didn’t really have them, because of his dad being weak and his uncle being bad and not being able to really respect Ronnie because he was Inidan. His mum tries to make up for the lack of tough men in his life.

It’s rubbish because it simply repeats the introduction – no ideas are extended. It’s also rubbish because the style is so casual and vague ‘didn’t really have them’ = didn’t really is vague. The word ‘them’ is too imprecise. ‘Being bad’ is too casual and imprecise – what exactly is wrong with Frank? You get the idea.

Good Conclusion

David Hayden’s anguish as he tries to process the crimes committed against Marie Little Soldier is compounded {means added to, or made worse} by the fact that the men who should be guiding him are the very ones who contribute to this anguish. The reader is shown that David’s uncle could have been a model of courage and manliness to his nephew, yet his uncle’s molestation of Indian women and murder of David’s much loved carer destroys any positive status Frank had in David’s eyes. The novel shows David, as any boy would, looking to his father and grandfather to help right these wrongs and support him in his disappointment, but both men fail him to greater or lesser degrees. Julian David’s grandfather is exposed as a sexist, racist bigot who is unconcerned about Frank’s abuse of native women and Wes does show some fortitude, but is also overly anxious to preserve the family name. In the twisted society of Bentrock David cannot turn to Ronnie Tall Bear, the native American he idolizes for advice and it is only his instinct for right and his mother’s courageous stance that prevents him from being more damaged by the corrupt behavior of the men in his family.

I have underlined the ideas that extend from the introduction.

I have highlighted in green where I’ve used repetition of ideas or words or names or linking words and phrases to link and build the argument.